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27 August 1951

Attitude of Abramchik, the Byelorussian Emigre Leader
Toward Political Center Created at Stuttgart

Abramchik, President of the Byelorussian National Rada, called ostensibly to inquire about the names and addresses of the Russian exiles whom he met in order to get in touch with them in the near future. He pointed out that since he had never talked to the Russians this would be a good occasion to establish contact.

In commenting on the establishment of a Council at the meeting in Stuttgart, Abramchik stated that he had only read about it in the papers. He expressed considerable disappointment at the participation of KERENSKI who he said, was known in the past for his anti-Byelorussian attitude. He stated, for example, that in 1937 a certain LABACH, a Byelorussian, had approached Kerenski and had been received more than coldly, and that Kerenski on that occasion had made some extremely uncomplimentary remarks to the Byelorussian aspirations. Abramchik pointed out that Kerenski had been unfriendly not only to the aspirations of the Byelorussians for independence, but even in 1917 to their hopes for autonomy.

Abramchik stated that he hoped to discuss the possibility of cooperation with the Council when [] or some members of the Council come to Paris. The creation of the Council is beginning to bear fruit, as evidenced by the sudden interest of Abramchik in Russian affairs. Abramchik was careful to point out however that he would cooperate only if the Russians recognized that Byelorussia was an independent country and would discuss the situation as equal to equal.

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